

Wetland Mitigation Area A2 and Portions of the Rockland Road Connector

Area A2 is located on the west side of Alapocas Run and on the south side of Rockland Road; that portion of the Rockland Connector north of Alapocas Run is adjacent to the wetland mitigation area. These will be treated as a single unit (Figure 9). This area is primarily low, flat terrain overgrown with weeds and grasses reaching about two feet high (Figure 10), and lying within 200 feet of the creek. Five 2.5 foot square test units (TUs 14-18) were excavated at 100 foot intervals in this area. All but TU 16 exhibited a plowzone, ranging from one half to one foot, over the B horizon. The plowzone was a dark brown to brown [10YR 3/3-5/3] silty loam, the B horizon a yellowish brown [10YR 5/8] silty clay.

TUs 14, 15, and 17 together yielded four post-1864 window pane fragments, a post-1910 automatic bottle machine bottle fragment, an unidentified piece of glass, and a redware sherd. TU 18 was excavated on a higher landform across Rockland Road from the Alapocas Run Site (see Area B below). This unit produced three cut and three unidentified nail fragments, 16 bottle fragments dating post 1910, three more recent bottle glass sherds, and a styrofoam cup fragment--all from the plowzone.

Excavation of TU 16, about 20 feet from Alapocas Run, revealed a one-foot thick layer of loose stone, brick and mortar rubble underlying 0.5 feet of Ao/A horizon (Figure 11). This rubble was about one foot thick, extending a maximum of 1.6 feet below the surface and mixed with dark gray brown [2.5Y 4/2] sandy loam. A pre-1860 freeblown olive amber bottle glass fragment, a post-1850s peacock bottle sherd, a pale aqua bottle sherd, an unidentified piece of glass, two soda/lime windowpane fragments, three post-1790 cut nail fragments, clam shell fragments, and several grams of brick and mortar fragments were recovered from this rubble. The mortar did not adhere to the brick or stone, but occurred in pockets. No articulated building remains were found. A buried weak red [2.5Y 5/4] clay silt Ap horizon approximately 0.3 feet thick was found beneath the rubble; this yielded a pearlware sherd and brick and mortar fragments. The thinness of this buried plow zone suggests that it had been truncated. The buried Ap overlay a series of alluvial soils, none of which produced artifacts. The first of these was a very dark gray [5YR 3/1] clay silt, the second a brownish yellow [10YR 6/6] coarse sand, and the lowest a very dark gray [5YR 3/1] clay directly above the water table (Figure 12).

Four shovel tests were excavated to the northwest, northeast, west and east of the rubble at varying intervals to determine its extent. These units revealed that the rubble extended a minimum of ten feet to the north and five feet to the southwest, evidently in a linear fashion. It appears that the rubble had been dumped on an earlier surface, possibly to contain the creek during flooding or to fill in a low spot. An earthen berm and a ditch are located on the opposite bank approximately thirty feet from the creek, and both that berm and the rubble feature may serve the function of controlling floodwater erosion, although the berm east of the creek is more formally constructed. The pearlware sherd from the Ab is probably field scatter, but does suggest that the rubble was dumped after 1820. Previous testing in this area also produced a thin historic field scatter (Taylor et al. 1989:270).

A mortared arched stone culvert (Figure 13) allows Alapocas Run to flow under Rockland Road. This culvert appears to pre-date the cast cement that forms the above ground "side rail" portion of the bridge. Stone walls run intermittently along either side of Rockland Road from its intersection with Concord Pike to the west side of the project area. A 1930s aerial photo (Aero Service 88.8.214) shows these walls. The stone culvert also appears to be indicated on the 1917 Price and Price map of the Nemours estate. It is our recommendation that the stone arches be photographed, drawn and studied by an engineer if they are to be impacted. No further archeological work is necessary in this area.

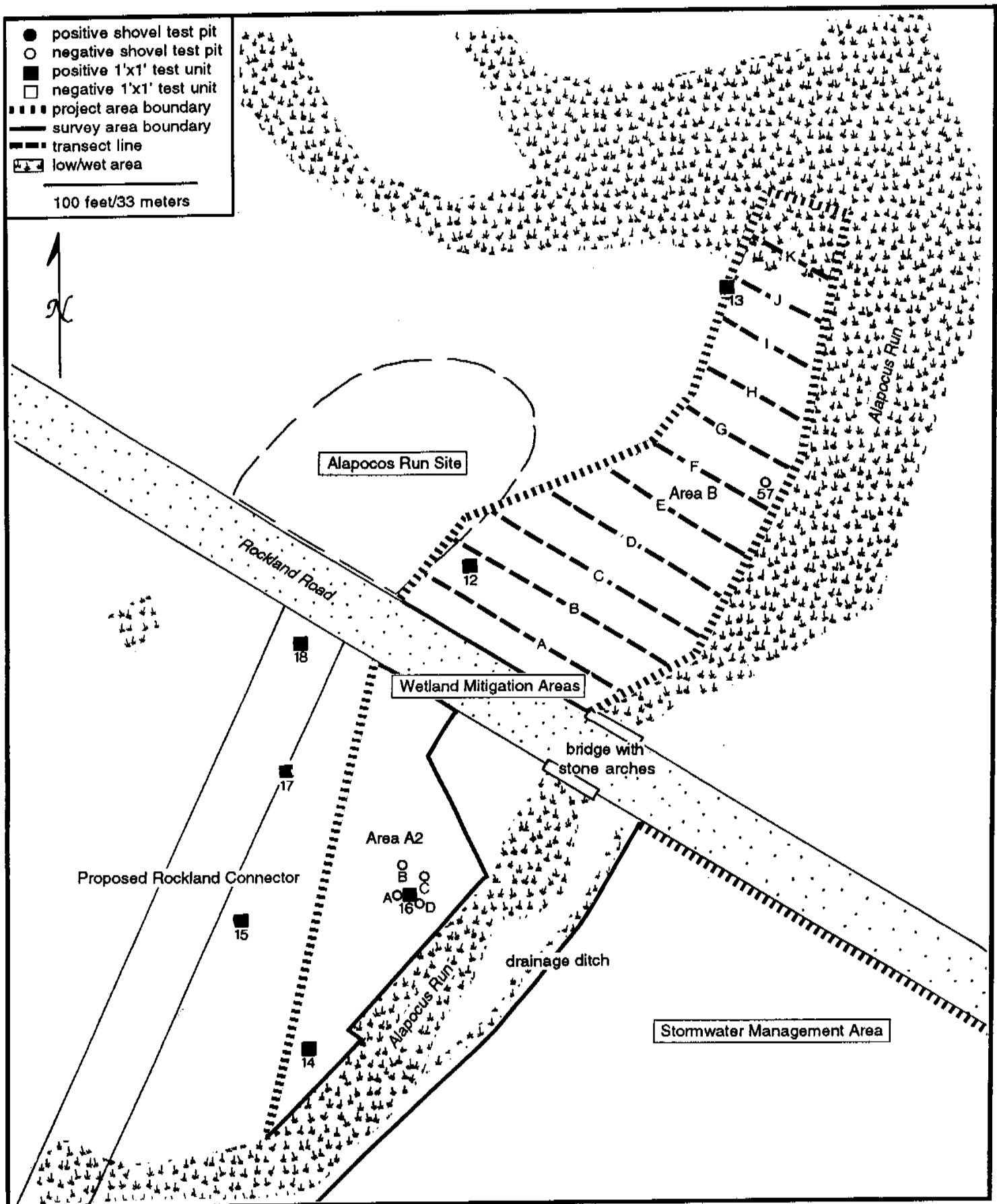


FIGURE 9
Portion of Project Map Showing Surface Survey and Excavations Within Wetland Mitigation Areas A2 and B

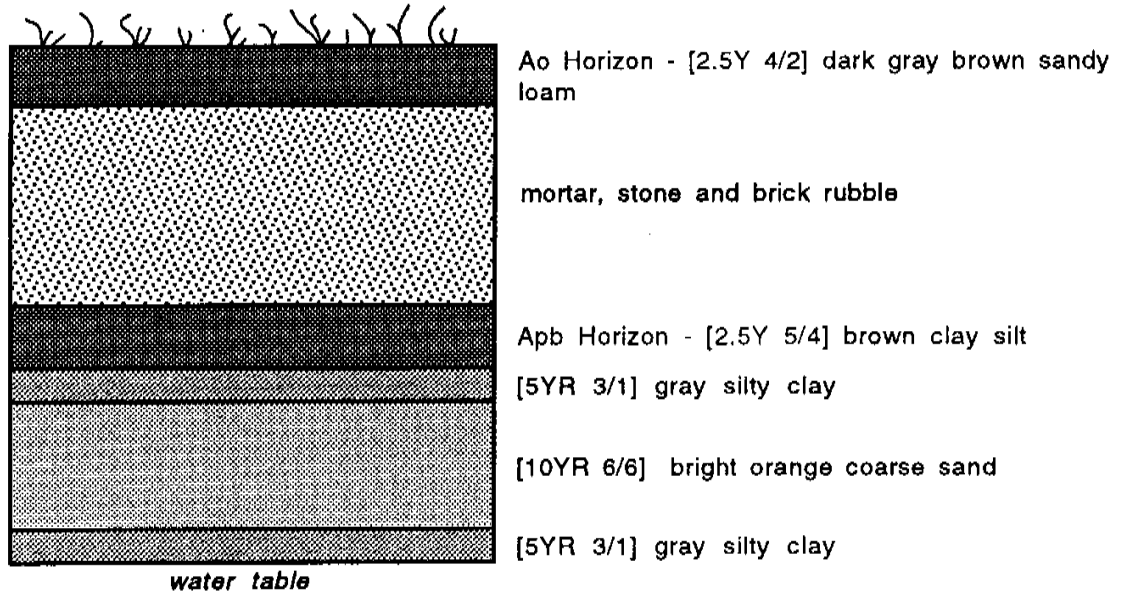


FIGURE 10
View of Wetland Mitigation Area A2, Facing Southwest



FIGURE 11
Wetland Mitigation Area 2A
Test Unit 17, North Wall, Showing Buried Rubble
Overlying Ab Horizon

**Test Unit 16,
North Wall**



1 foot

FIGURE 12
Soil Profile from Wetland Mitigation Area A2

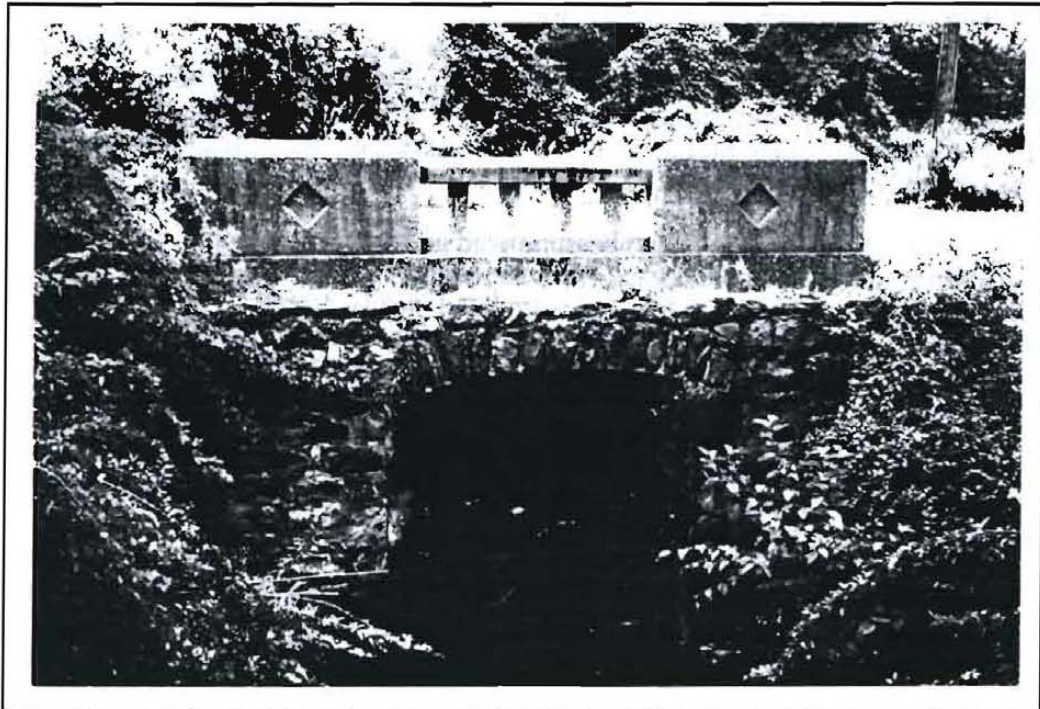


FIGURE 13
Wetland Mitigation Area 2A
Looking South at Arched Stone Culvert;
Alapocus Run Flows Under Rockland Road